



# Spark Gap

Vol. 35, Issue 8, August 2019 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-five years*

## ***On Our MARC:***

If you weren't at last month's meeting, you missed a great presentation that Mike Turner put on about aircraft and their antenna systems. Great job on your presentation!! Can you please get me the SR71? ☺ If you have anymore like this, please get with me so we can get you on the list for another month. Everyone really enjoyed it and is asking for more.

MARC has a few events left for the year. Heartnut Sept 7th, Goblin Patrol Oct 31st and most important, MARC annual picnic Sept 21st!!

Speaking of the picnic, it is a great family event. This year we WON'T be headed to the Brown's Ranch. Steve and his wife will be on vacation so our picnic will be held at the Union Christian Church 1331 E 300 S in Franklin. Map will be passed out at the monthly meeting and will also be sent out in an email about two weeks before the picnic. Hopefully the weather will be nice. Your admission is a covered dish or another item to share and a lawn chair to "sit a spell." The club will provide the meat, Ice tea and Lemonade. See all of you there!

It's not too late to throw your hat into the ring for an officer's position in the MARC for the 2019-20 year. If you hold a valid Amateur Radio license and your dues are current, full member of the club, you can run for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. You can nominate someone at the meeting but before nominating someone, please check with them to see if they are interested in an office. The slate will be finalized at the meeting on Aug. 17th with balloting up until the annual picnic on Sept. 21st. Once the slate is finalized, Rhonda will email out all ballots to paid members and if we don't have an email address, she will mail you one.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

*Jacki - K16QOG*

President



## Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

## “Airplanes, Antennas and Oddities”

“Airplanes, Antennas and Oddities” was an uplifting presentation by Mike Turner-K9OMT during the July MARC meeting. Mike featured the different types of VHF/UHF, HF, satellite and other super secret antennas being used on civilian, commercial and military planes. Turner has thousands of hours of flying time thanks to his military career as a fixed wing and helicopter pilot. That knowledge showed when explaining the design and reasons behind the history of aviation flight antennas. Mike’s detailed pictures piqued the interest of the MARC crowd which included several private pilots. In fact, one person remarked that we have so many trained pilots in our group we could start a ham club air force. Thanks to Mike Turner-K9OMT for an outstanding presentation. We many need an encore performance so Mike can tell The Rest of the Story.

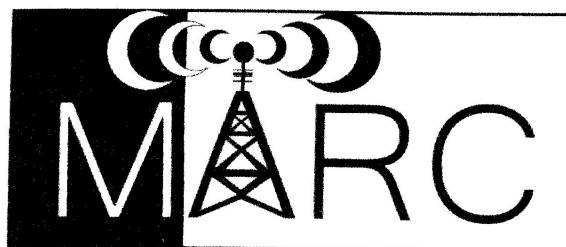
..... Jack w8ish



## JULY VE TEAM TEST RESULTS

James Seiver	KD9NNL	General
Chris MacAslan	KD9NNN	Technician
Aaron R Grabianowski	KD9NNO	Technician
Eric Ward	KD9NNM	Technician

Congratulations to the new Technician Class HAMs and the new license to General Class.



# NEW LOCATION FOR THE MARC ANNUAL PICNIC



**The shelter house is located across the road from the church. Thanks goes to Brenda KC9EBL and Union Christian Church for the use of their facility. This is a great location for a picnic, out in the country and plenty of parking for those attending. There is also plenty of room for antennas if someone wants to set up a station for the event.**

## Special Meeting ARRL Central Division

Special meeting: Kermit Carlson, WX9A - ARRL Central Division Director and Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA - ARRL Central Division Vice Director will be visiting the Amateur Radio Association of Newton County Indiana at their monthly meeting.

August 5, 2019.  
Morocco Lions Club, 3091 S 300 W, Morocco, IN 47963.  
The time is at 7:00 pm.

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting

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ARRL Indiana Section  
Section Manager: Jimmy L Merry Jr, KC9RPX  
[kc9rpx@arrl.org](mailto:kc9rpx@arrl.org)

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## Can you copy at 20 words per minute by hand?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was send to the CWOps mailing list:

**From:** Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM

**Subject:** W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ  
Director of Operations



Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 1919 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine." I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, "Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible)."

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

**NOTE:** You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

- 100% solid state SSB/CW Transceiver.
- Full coverage of 10-160 meter bands.
- 350 watts P.E.P. or CW input.
- Digital Dial Frequency Readout (Optional).
- Plug-in auxiliary VFO or crystal oscillator (Optional).

## The transceiver that has everything you'll ever need!

The 350-XL was designed to fill all the operating requirements of the ham operator. Whether you operate fixed, portable, or mobile, SSB, CW, RTTY, or SSTV, the 350-XL is the perfect rig. It has the performance, versatility, and power to give you everything you need all in a single, compact, high quality transceiver.

We deliberately made many of our special features such as the auxiliary VFO and the Digital Dial Frequency Readout optional so that every feature you could possibly want is available, but you only pay for those that you use. We even made our programmable selectivity filter an option, enabling us to lower the base price of the 350-XL to \$895.

The Atlas 350-XL is the State of the Art in Amateur Radio Transceivers for the Next Decade, but available today at your ham dealer.

Atlas 350-XL (less options)	\$895.
Model DD6-XL Digital Dial Readout	\$195.
Model 305 Plug-in Auxiliary VFO	\$155.
Model 311 Plug-in Auxiliary Crystal Oscillator	\$135.
Model 350-PS Matching AC Supply	\$195.
Mobile Mounting Bracket	\$ 65.

Other optional features to be announced.

# THE ATLAS 350-XL





**ATLAS  
RADIO INC.**  
417 Via Del Monte, Oceanside, Ca. 92054  
Phone (714) 433-1983

# A Tribute to Joe Rogers, KF9LQ SK

"Hey I'm Joe, KF9LQ and this is my wife Barb KB9NOG."

It was 1997. In New York, the twin towers stood tall. In Franklin, things were mostly the same as they are today. But for me, it was a lifetime ago.

I was in Dave Wendt's amateur radio class, hoping to fulfill a long time ambition: Getting my technician class license and joining the amateur radio community. I had tried before, but this time I was committed to succeed. And succeed I would. But the man I met at the amateur radio class was already a ham. And so of course was Barb. But that wasn't why he was there. Joe was at the meeting to help make new hams feel welcome. And so he did.

Fast forward a few weeks. The previous Saturday had seen me score an almost perfect on my novice written and technician tests, and thus I awaited with anticipation my new callsign. It took until Thursday, but at last the callsign arrived. I took my battered and well-used Alinco DJ-560 down to the K-Mart in Greenwood, and prepared for my first contact. Nervous, I wrote my callsign on my hand with a pen, along with Joe's callsign. After a few deep breaths I made my first contact on the WA9RDF repeater that Thursday morning. Joe said he would be standing by, and I could be his first contact. And so he was.

Then I was introduced to the supper club, a break-off of the Mid-State group that travelled around to the various local restaurants every week. It was there that I met folks like Al Soltin, KA9ZET, Meredith (you'd better call him JR if you know what's good for you) Osborne KB9HSE, Dan O'Connell K9VQI, Dennis Boyle KB9RRN, Tom Achors KB9RBB, Vernon Gill N9QBO, and many others. Joe said he (reluctantly) would run the supper club so that hams from around the area would have a place to get to know each other. And so he did.

Although he would humorously deflect any attempt to nominate him for office, Joe Rogers has been integral to the club since I was a member, and was a part of amateur radio life for most of us in the central Indiana region. He said he never wanted to be a leader. But he was.

Confined by an early bout of polio to a scooter in the later part of his life, Joe was more mobile than all of us. His familiar van was seen everywhere about town, and if he knew you were a ham, you could expect the horn of his scooter to tap out a morse greeting. Those of us who knew the code could sometimes expect a few other humorous gems from the speaker of his scooter. Some fit for air, some not. But all one hundred percent KF9LQ.

News of Joe's passing reached me in Northwest Wisconsin, and I was struck with how many have left us forever. Joe was an integral part of all of our lives, and he will be forever missed. Joe was a friend, a fellow ham, and a leader (albeit reluctantly) of our club. From his scooter, he stood taller than us all. Rest in peace, KF9LQ.

Matthew Payne, KB9UJE  
MARC Northwest Outpost  
Wisconsin.

## **PUMPKIN PATROL ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, THIS IS WHY WE DO IT!**

Four Michigan teens will be sentenced as adults after admitting to playing a disturbing game in which they threw rocks over a busy interstate in 2017, ultimately killing one man.

Judge Joseph J. Farah rejected the defense's request Tuesday asking that Mark Sekelsky, 18, Mikadyn Payne, 17, Trevor Gray, 16, and Alexzander Miller, 16, be sentenced as juveniles for their roles in the October 2017 death of 32-year-old Kenneth White, Fox 2 WJBK Detroit reported.

The four boys, along with Kyle Anger, who threw the rock that killed White, were said to be participating in a game called "Overpassing" where they threw various objects off an overpass on I-75 in Genesee County. Anger is being tried separately for second-degree murder. Authorities say the 6-pound rock he tossed from the overpass hit the van in which White was a passenger, killing him. White's official cause of death was ruled blunt force trauma to his head and chest, and he suffered fractures to his skull and face.

Anger is being tried separately for second-degree murder. Authorities say the 6-pound rock he tossed from the overpass hit the van in which White was a passenger, killing him. White's official cause of death was ruled blunt force trauma to his head and chest, and he suffered fractures to his skull and face. Farah said the teens were all willing participants in the game. "What was the purpose? To wait until the road cleared to drop the item to see it break? No, to make contact [with a car] in this game called Overpassing," he said according to Fox 2. "To be able to say aloud, 'Dinger!' when a car was hit. It can't be overlooked that I'm going to assume, I'm going to assume, that Kenny White's vehicle was the last one hit." Farah said the teens used more than just rocks as "ammo." The other implements reportedly included tire irons, a muffler, a shopping cart and even a couch. The teens reportedly also talked about "laying low" after news of White's death emerged. Farah said these conversations showed a complete lack of remorse.

The four teens will be sentenced at a later, unspecified date.

..... WJBK Fox 2, Detroit Michigan



# Celebrating 100 years of WWV

## 1919 - 2019 WWV Centennial

### *Here's what's happening:*

The world's oldest radio station, WWV, turns 100 years on October 1, 2019, and we are celebrating!

From September 28 through October 2, 2019, the Northern Colorado ARC and WWV ARC, along with help from RMHam, FCCW, and operators from across the country, are planning 24-hour operations of special event station WW0WWV on CW, SSB and digital modes. Operations will shift between HF bands following normal propagation changes and will include 160m and 6m meteor scatter. We will be operating right at the WWV site and face a challenging RF environment.

### *You can help:*

Putting on a project of this magnitude takes hours and hours of volunteer time as well as costing a lot of money. At this point we have filled our operator's slots and met equipment goals, but we need more financial resources to cover basic operating expenses, return shipping, and site logistics.

- Please visit our Donations Page to help support this project! -

### *NIST - No Open-House on October 1:*

The WWV Committee has recently learned that the original plans of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to hold an open-house on the anniversary October 1, 2019, have changed. Due to a number of reasons, the scope of the formal celebration will be limited to only 100 invited participants. ***WWV will not open its doors to the public on October 1.*** WW0WWV will be the main public event for the centennial celebration.

### *Outreach to the Fort Collins Community:*

The Fort Collins Museum of Discovery is partnering with WW0WWV to share the magic of Amateur Radio with Fort Collins on Sunday, September 29, 2019. An amateur station will be operating all morning, and also making scheduled contacts with WW0WWV right in front of the museum.

Museum guests will have a chance to talk over the air to the hams at WWV, get to ask questions about WWV and radio in general, and even experience a little Morse code fun. If you're there for a contact with WW0WWV, you may even get your own QSL card.

If you would like a similar experience for your community, please contact the WWV Committee using the School and Museum contact form via the links in the Main Menu.

Please visit our Facebook (@WWV100) and Twitter (@WWV\_100) pages and follow us on social media!

NCARC, WWV ARC, RMHAM, FCCW, and our operators from across the country are looking forward to the end of September and the privilege of celebrating WWV turning 100.

## UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

**08/17/2019 -- 0800** MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

**Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**08/24/2019 -- 0930 -- 1630 Greater Greenwood Community Band Festival Amphitheater,  
Surina Square Greenwood, IN 46142 (Public Safety and Parking)**

**09/14/2019 -- 0800** Johnson County Heart Nut Festival, Johnson County Park

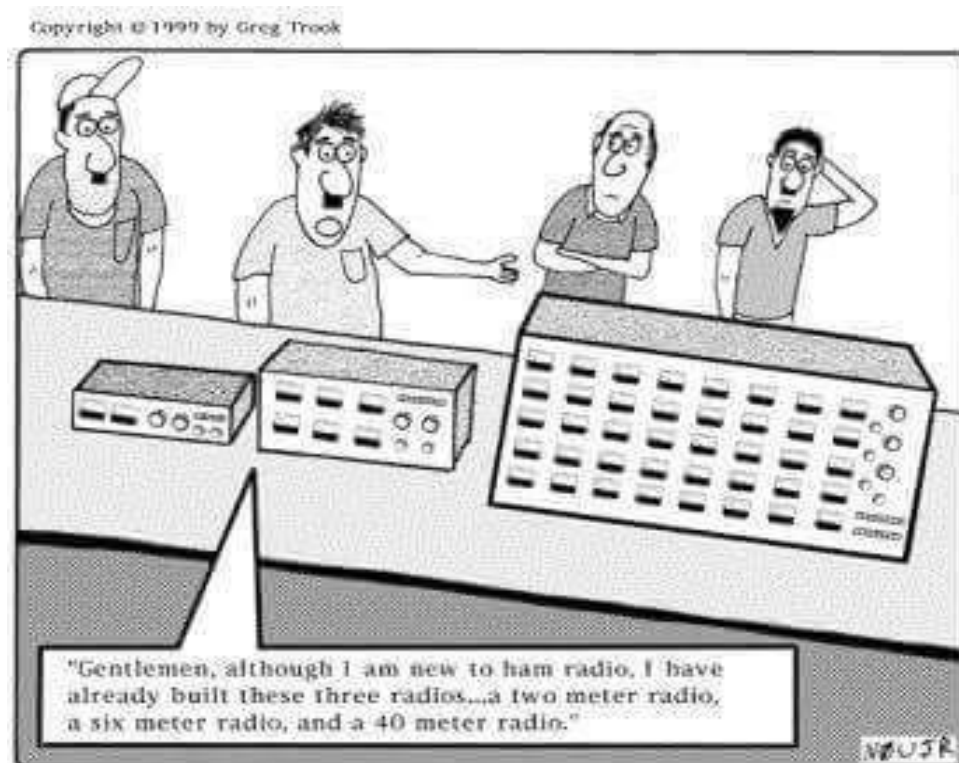
**09/21/2019 -- MARC Monthly Meeting and Annual Picnic, Union Christian Church eat at 1130.**

**10/19/2019 -- 0800** MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

**Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**



If you would like to be part of Johnson County ARES please contact Bob LaGrange  
[N9SIU@YAHOO.COM](mailto:N9SIU@YAHOO.COM)



**MIDSTATE**



**AMATEUR**

**RADIO CLUB**

**Will be on the air at the**



**HEARTNUT FESTIVAL  
in Johnson County Park**

**September 7<sup>th</sup> 2019**

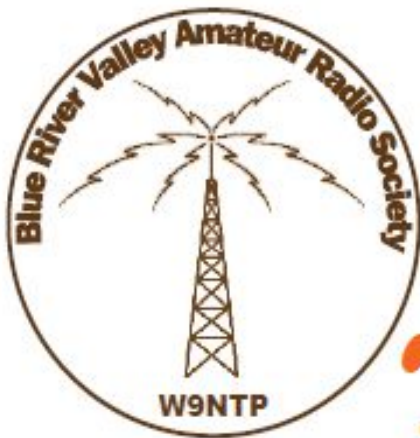
**9:00a – 5:00p**

**Come out and see us!**



**[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)**

# BLUE RIVER VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



# 2019 SHELBYVILLE TAILGATE

**PLACE: SHELBY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**500 FRANK ST, SHELBYVILLE, IN 46176**

**DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019      TIME: 8:00AM to NOON**

**SETUP: 7:00AM SATURDAY (INSIDE AND OUT)**

*Talk-in Frequency: 145.48 MHz 88.5Hz PL  
<http://www.brvars.com>*

The Shelbyville Tailgate 2019 will be held on October 19 at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. We have use of the Family Arts Building so that folks can setup their tables on the inside or outside, weather depending. We will be open at 7:00AM for anyone wishing to setup their table space. At 8:00AM we will open to the general public. Admission is free. No charge for inside or outside vendor space. Soft drinks, Coffee and Sausage Gravy and biscuits available while supplies last. No charge but donations will be accepted. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED BY THE SHELBY COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION.** These folks own the property so we have to play by their rules. Your cooperation will be appreciated. We will be closing up shop around Noon.

This will be an old-fashion tailgate event where hams can get together, ohew over old times and embellish their recollections of ham radio past. You can buy, sell or trade your ham related gear and visit with all of your ham radio friends. This tailgate event carries on in the tradition started by Ralph Polston, K9SEW, some years ago when he started having tailgates in his side yard. We are trying to maintain the spirit of those events and perhaps widen the circle of folks who might come visit with us. See you there. 73

**[www.brvars.com](http://www.brvars.com)**



Reminiscing back to when tailgates were tailgates.



Photos taken when tailgate was in Ralph's sideyard.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME**





## MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

### WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

### Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Vice President: Bill Jackson – KM6CRL  
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H  
Treasurer: Ron Scheutz – K9THR  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

### WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3rd of the month*



*Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.*